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41-62758

RUSTIN, Bayard

1. Noted negro civil rights leader and peace worker. Born 17 March 1913 in West Chester, Penn. He resides in New York City.
2. Subject admitted has had numerous contacts with CP members and CP front groups, although there is no information to indicate that he is now a Communist or ^{Communist} sympathizer. A cursory review of voluminous information indicates that RUSTIN maintains contact with CP affiliated groups and their members to further his own work in the civil rights movement and peace crusades. Subject appears dedicated to his cause but is hampered somewhat by irresponsibility and ~~unstable~~ a homosexual problem.
3. He was a member of the Young Communist League (1936-1941), the American Student Union (1939), and an active member of the War Resisters League. In 1957 Subject attended the 16th National Convention of the CPUSA as a non-Communist observer and representative of the War Resisters League. In July 1950 he stated that he was formerly a member of the CP but was no longer so affiliated. Subject has also been a member of the National Committee for Non-Violent Action. He was Secretary to Martin Luther KING from 1956 to 1960 and in 1962 he was Assistant Secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Deputy Director of the 1964 ^{63?} March on Washington.
4. In 1961 RUSTIN spoke at a meeting of the Monroe Defense Committee in New York City taking a more militant approach to the civil rights movement. In this speech Subject stated that there was a breakdown in law enforcement on all levels in the South and it was not only the right but the duty of negroes to furnish their own protection, by armed force if necessary and to establish their own police forces. In April 1962, Subject debated MALCOLM X and stated that he was not in accord with the Muslims on their teachings of hate and their desire to set up a separate state for themselves.
5. In 1958 Subject traveled to London, England to participate in a protest against Britain's manufacturer of nuclear weapons. The London protest was organized by an affiliate organization of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, a communist front group.

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6. In late 1959 Subject traveled to Ghana to organize a march to the Sahara Desert to protest the French testing of a hydrogen bomb. He was unsuccessful.

7. A report dated 5 May 1966 indicated that RUSTIN was a member of a group sent to the Dominican Republic by Norman Thomas to look into the situation in that country to determine if the potential climate is conducive to free elections.

8. Subject has had contacts with the following noted CP members and sympathizers:

A report dated 23 April 1962 indicated that Subject was in contact with William Worthy, leftist negro journalist and lecturer. Another report dated 29 November 1963 indicated that he was in contact with Benjamin J. DAVIS, National Secretary of the CPUSA. DAVIS had previously stated that the CP must concentrate on influencing the leaders and policies of the negro liberation movement. This same report also indicated that one of RUSTIN's co-workers thought that Subject was "manipulated" by Thomas KAHN, a member of the Socialist Party.

9. Subject's arrest record includes a three year sentence in 1944 for violation of the Selective Service Act and arrests in 1946 and 1953 for a lewd act and sex perversion. In 1940 Subject registered as a Conscientious Objector but later became convinced that he should resist any form of conscription, which led to his 1944 conviction. The 1953 arrest was publicized by a Maryland newspaper in 1964 to arouse public sentiment against RUSTIN's appearance at the University of Maryland to deliver a lecture.

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(Frederick Ahr)
5 November 67

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